

[Correspondence of the Public Ledger.]

FROM WASHINGTON.

Mr. Douglass' Bill to admit California as a State—Mr. Walker's Report.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 1848.

Agreeably to previous notice Mr. Douglass obtained, to-day, leave to introduce his bill. Its reception by the Senate was not as cordial as anticipated by the friends of the measure, and it lies over for a day to pass to a second reading. So it has not, as yet, been referred to a committee. The bill, from present indications, may pass; but it has to travel over a very rough road, and I do not perceive that unanimity of sentiment in regard to it which, under favorable circumstances, might ensure its success. Almost every man I have seen has a different view on the subject, and as the outgoing administration has not the means of strengthening a measure in proportion to the time occupied in its discussion, but on the contrary weakens it, in proportion as its own term of existence draws to a close, I do not, for the life of me, see how Mr. Douglass' bill can become a law during this short session.

It is useless to disguise the fact that a very large number of northeastern and northwestern men of both political complexions, are entirely opposed to anything in the shape of compromise, expressed or implied, and that this is not an idiosyncrasy, but a course of action forced upon them by their constituents. There is a disposition, in these piping times of party peace, on the part of members, not to commit themselves hastily to any measure, and in the absence of any positive indication as to the course likely to be pursued by the administration of General Taylor, rather to make themselves strong with their constituents at home, than to curry favors with men, actually, or soon to be, in power. With the best wishes of Mr. Polk and his friends for the speedy settlement of the Slavery question in the territories, I am still of opinion the question will be left as a rich legacy to his successor. If any measure pass in regard to the Territories, during the present session, it will, I am afraid, be neither Judge Douglass' Bill, nor the Missouri Compromise, nor the Compromise proposed during the last session by Mr. Clayton; but the Wilmot Proviso and nothing short of it. I should not be surprised, if in regard to it the Senate were tied. In the House the majority for it is overwhelming, and rather increasing than diminishing.

OBSERVER.

GOLD REGION.

The Rev. Walter Colton, formerly of this city, but now Alcalde of Monterey, speaking of the Gold region says:

"When you discover on one of your barren plains a few grains of gold, scattered here and there, like good deeds in a wicked man's life, you grow as if the world was coming to an end; but here the streams are paved with it, and the mountains swell in its glowing girdle. It sparkles in the sands of the valley; it glitters in the coronet of the steep cliffs; and yet you slumber over it, and let the stranger despoil you. Well, slumber on if you will; but send us a mint. We will startle Europe from her dreams, if not you. We have taken California in vain, and we will vindicate the treasures she has cost us if you will send us that mint.

I use strong terms. But who can use weak ones? Can a man smoke his pipe under the flaming cave of Vesuvius, or speak whispers when an earthquake rocks?"

This, the reader will see, is strong language; but language equally as strong once act all inland wondering at the riches of Virginia, while the colonists who indulged in dreams of untold wealth starved to death amidst their supposed riches. We also remember of a recent man respecting the copper mines of Lake Superior and New Jersey, with divers other manias for speculative purposes, all of which make us distrust the highly colored enthusiasm of first discoverers, and press a while for some proof, real and tangible, to justify its glowing ardor. We however, give the documents, that each reader may judge for himself how far to credit the statements made. The New York Express of Saturday says, some of the gold found to that city has been assayed, and all doubt as to the genuineness of the article is removed by the result. The gentleman who tested the article says:

"I return you 104 grains out of the 12 which I have tested—the value of which is 45 cents. It is 214 carats fine—within half a carat of the quality of English sovereigns and American eagles, and is almost ready to go to the mint. The finest gold we get comes from Africa, which is 224 to 23 carats fine. In Virginia we have mines where the quality of the gold is much inferior—some of it as low as 19 carats, and in Georgia the mines produce it nearly 22 carats fine. The gold of California, which I have now assayed, is fully equal to that of any, and much superior to some produced from the mines in our Southern States."—*Phila. Ledger.*

THE NORTHERN TEMPERANCE CONVENTION met in the Methodist Episcopal Church, in this place, on Tuesday last.—A large number of delegates were in attendance, and a number of spirited resolutions were passed of which this was one:

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, the Church, in order to vindicate herself, should expel all members engaged in the traffic of liquor and those who use it as a beverage."

This resolution gave rise to an animated debate, and was ably discussed on both sides for several hours, but was finally disposed of by a vote being taken and carried almost unanimously. The principal and only objection urged to it was the latter part of the resolution, "use as a beverage."

The Convention before adjournment passed a resolution to hold their next annual meeting in the Boro' of Muncy.—*Miltonian.*

The editor of the Steuben (Ohio) Courier publishes marriage notices under the head of "Joint Resolutions." He has decidedly a legislative turn.

Mr. Bell, in Tuscaloosa, Ala., who had suffered eight years from cancer in the nose, was lately cured by the use of a cranberry poultice.



THE AMERICAN.

SUNBURY.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1848.

H. B. MASSER, Editor and Proprietor.

E. W. CARR, Evans' Building, Third street, opposite the Philadelphia Exchange, is regularly authorized to receive advertisements and subscriptions for this paper, and receipt for the same.

An active boy about 14 or 15 years old, would be taken as an apprentice, at this office.

We have been requested to state that in accordance with general custom, no business can be transacted in the Bank of Northumberland on Christmas day, and that by a law of the last Legislature, Notes due on that day, are required to be protested if not paid on the business day preceding, which this year will be Saturday the 23d instant.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A melancholy accident occurred about noon on Wednesday last, which caused the instant death of John Boyd Fetter, of Northumberland, a young man about 17 years of age. He was in company with his father hauling a saw log, and was sitting on the log while driving his team, when by some mishap, the wagon upset and the log fell upon the breast of the unfortunate young man, which caused his immediate death.

ANOTHER SOLDIER.—Mr. Amos Barnhart, another of the soldiers in the late war, returned a few days since to his friends near this place. Mr. Barnhart served in Mexico, in the regular army, under both Taylor and Scott. He was in nine different battles, and was wounded three times. His wounds have so disabled him, that he walks with difficulty. He is entitled, we believe, to a pension of eight dollars per month, a poor compensation for the hardships and physical disabilities he has sustained.

GOLD FEVER.—This epidemic is becoming general throughout the Union.—The newspapers, which are supposed to reflect the history of the times, are filled with glowing accounts of the richness of the gold region. Our readers will find a full history of the matter, in the letters of Col. Mason and others, published in our paper this week. These accounts though from respectable sources should be received with caution. First impressions, under the excitement and mania which is now pervading the country, are always too highly colored, and almost always result in disappointment.

To remove old putty from window sash, heat a poker or any other piece of iron, and apply it to the old putty. Apply the knife immediately as the putty is softened by the heat, but hardens again as it cools. As the season for glazing is at hand, we give this information gratis.

The yellow, or Gold fever, prevails in this neighborhood to a considerable extent. In this place the epidemic is confined pretty much to young men, married and single, but mostly to the latter. Some of the cases are of such a malignant character that probably nothing short of a voyage to California will effect a cure. With others, a milder treatment may, in time, effect a change. The voyage will, we think, in all cases prove effectual, as a general clearing out will be the inevitable result. There is nothing like reducing one, pecuniarily as well as physically in all cases of mania.

The electoral college met at Harrisburg on Wednesday week last. The Hon. T. M. McKennan was chosen President. Gen. Markel was selected as the messenger to carry the vote to Washington.

Some of the whigs of Philadelphia held a meeting some time since to reorganize the whig party under a new name. The country Press, however, repudiate the new measures.

LANCASTER INTELLIGENCER.—All right friend Hutter. We were a little too fast—not fastidious. A little reflection might have taught us that the article came to you second handed.

How is the yellow fever progressing in your city. Has our friend Col. Frazer escaped the epidemic? A little golden tincture administered in homoeopathic doses, is recommended in moderate cases. Where it has assumed a malignant type, nothing but salt water and the sea breezes on the coast of California will answer.

BUCKSHOT WAR IN OHIO.—The Buckeyes are engaged in a regular Buckshot war, at Columbus the seat of government. The parties are so nearly balanced that no organization can be effected, by ballot. The democrats have possession of the Hall, eating sleeping and drinking there without adjournment. On Sunday last they were to have preaching, which we hope has had a good effect.

GEN. TAYLOR has not resigned yet, but is arranging his business to do so before the inauguration.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.—The Postmaster General recommends the total abolition of the Franking privilege. This is one of the most abused privileges of the government, and has always operated against the reform in the reduction of postage. There are tons of documents, useful only for waste paper, sent through the mails, simply because they go free. With postage reduced to the lowest rates, the Franking privilege, can and ought to be dispensed with. It now is, and always has been, used mostly as an engine for electioneering purposes, as will be seen by the following extract from the Postmaster General's Report:

"If the proposed reductions are to be made, and the Department required to sustain itself, it is indispensable that the franking privilege should be abolished. It is now greater and more exclusively used than at any former period; and as the privilege is enlarged, the abuses under it increase. The immense mass of free matter sent through the mails necessarily requires a higher and more expensive grade of service, to enable the contractors to transport it. It is not unusual for coach service to be demanded on routes yielding comparatively nothing for the transportation of public documents and other free matter. Over one route, a double line, of four-horse post coaches, has become indispensable. Some estimates may be formed of the additional expense of transportation, from the fact reported from the city post office, that in seven days, from the 6th until the 12th of August last, inclusive, 450 bags of free matter, weighing 35,550 pounds, averaging daily 5,078 pounds, passed through his office.

Upon inquiry, it appears that, between the 1st of Dec. and the 1st of Oct. last, there was sent from the two houses of Congress, through the mails, about five millions of copies of speeches and other matter, weighing under two ounces, and about one hundred and seventy-seven thousand public documents, besides the letters written by the members of the House of Representatives; and there remained to be forwarded more than one half of the public documents ordered to be printed at the last session. Such a mass of matter thrown upon the mails, must necessarily add to the cost of transportation, retard the progress of the mails, and produce a great proportion of the failures that are made on the unimproved routes in the newer sections of the country. But this is not all: the Department is compelled to pay the postmasters, whose compensation does not exceed \$2,000 per annum, two cents for the delivery of each free letter or document. A large proportion of the documents and papers thus sent free, are, it is believed; seldom read, and if read, but of little public interest, and worse than useless; inasmuch as the exercise of the privilege to the extent now practised, tends to prevent, if it does not materially interfere with, the circulation of the village newspapers in their respective localities. This subject has been so forcibly presented to the House in the report of the Committee of Post-offices and Post Roads, at the last session, and several other reports previous to that time, that it is not deemed necessary to enlarge upon it at this time.

Whether the suggestions for the modifications of the act of 1845 be adopted or not, all matter sent in the mails should be prepaid, and apply it to the old putty. Apply the knife immediately as the putty is softened by the heat, but hardens again as it cools. As the season for glazing is at hand, we give this information gratis.

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JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.
From the "American Law Journal," an excellent work published in Lancaster, by Geo. W. Harmerly & Co., we learn, that the commissions of the following President Judges expire during the term of Governor Johnston, and will have to be filled by him: Judge Jessup, 7th of April 1849, Hepburn, 5th of March 1849, Conyngham 25th March 1849, McCalmont 31st of May 1849, Patton, 20th of March 1850, Hays, 1st of May 1850, Woodward, 9th April 1851.

"THE SUNBURY AMERICAN has procured an additional font of beautiful new brier type for its advertising columns. This completes the American's new suit, and its typographical appearance will now favorably compare with that of any paper printed in the State."—*Danville Democrat.*

Thank you for that, friend Cook.—We have always had an excellent opinion of your judgment.

SEIDLITZ POWDERS.—Col. Mason in his letter relates that a Miner gave an ounce and a half of gold dust, worth \$24, for a box of Seidlitz powders. The editor of the Times presumes they were "wanted to work the mines," and advises all adventurers, anxious for a quick passage, to take these powders. Mercury, has always been regarded as the great remedy for the "Yellow Fever," but if Seidlitz powders will work it off, so much the better, as they are a safer and more pleasant remedy, and more in character with the effervescing nature of the disease.

WEST BRANCH BANK.
The following named gentlemen were duly elected directors of this institution, for the ensuing year, on Monday, Nov. 20, 1848, viz: A. Updegraff, A. Woodward, S. H. Lloyd, George Tomb, P. Dickinson, E. S. Lowe, J. S. Graffius, Wm. McKimney, L. Mahaffey, J. Ploutz, Jeremiah Tallman, Joshua Bowman Jos. S. Williams.

A. UPDEGRAFF, Esq., was unanimously elected President, and THOS. W. LLOYD, Esq., Cashier.

NEW COUNTERFEITS.
\$3's Bank of White Hall,
\$3's "Battenkill, Vt.
\$3's "Adams, Mass.
\$3's City Bank of New Haven Conn.
\$5's Bank of Penn Township.
\$5's "Delaware.
\$1's "Wilmington & Brandywine.

[From the Phila. Ledger.]

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.

SENATE.—At the usual hour the Vice President called the Senate to order.

The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury was received.

Mr. Jefferson Davis moved that twenty thousand extra copies be printed.

Mr. Cameron opposed the resolution with much earnestness. He considered that the people had repudiated the sectarian course of the Secretary of the Treasury especially in relation to the tariff.

Mr. King considered the document an important one—one which could not be too widely circulated among the people. The people had a right to know the financial condition of their country, and that right should be watched with a jealous eye.

Mr. Davis defended the resolution with great earnestness, contending that it ought to pass. He replied to the objections that had been urged against it, and spoke of the motives which had prompted those objections.

Mr. Allen followed on the same side, and advocated the passage of the resolution with considerable effort and ability.

Mr. Niles followed in reply, warmly contending that it ought not to pass. He expressed his reasons at some length.

Mr. Hale expressed himself in opposition to the bill, with energy and spirit.

Mr. Metcalf was opposed to the resolution. He thought it was altogether unnecessary to have any extra copies printed.

Mr. Foote favored the resolution. He thought it proper to have the extra copies printed for general information.

Mr. Westcott could see no good reason why they should not be printed. He advocated the resolution with some eloquence and ability, and was listened to with interest by the Senate and a crowded gallery.

After considerable debate the question was taken on the passage of the bill and carried.

HOUSE.—George N. Eckert of Pennsylvania, offered a resolution instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to report a Tariff Bill to the House for its consideration, based upon the principles of the Tariff of 1842.—Upon the final passage of this resolution the yeas and nays were ordered and it passed in the affirmative; yeas 96, nays 93.

Mr. Goggia, chairman of the committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, made a report accompanied by a bill providing for the reduction of postage and the correction of abuses of the franking privilege, which was read twice and referred to the committee of the whole.

The Rev. MILTON C. LIGHTNER has retired from the rectory of Christ (Episcopal) Church of this place, having accepted a call of the Episcopal Congregation at Manunk.

The Rev. Jos. I. ELKSDOWN, formerly of Norristown, is his successor.—While we welcome the latter in our midst, we wish to the former, health, happiness and success in the new sphere of his ministerial duties.—*Danville Democrat.*

GEN. BRADY.—The Detroit Daily Advertiser states that news had just arrived in that city, that President Polk had stripped Gen. Hugh Brady of his command. The cause is not yet made public. The news created considerable excitement in Detroit, and a meeting of the friends of Gen. Brady was soon to be held to take the subject into consideration.

Mrs. Reigel, wife of Jacob Reigel, of Reading, was found drowned in the Union Canal on Tuesday last. She had been deranged.

The first known coal mine in Portugal has just been discovered near Lisbon.

[Correspondence of the Public Ledger.]

INTERESTING LETTER FROM HARRISBURG.

The State Finances.

HARRISBURG, December 11, 1848.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—Through the politeness of the gentlemanly Auditor General of the State, T. A. Purviance, I am permitted to copy the following exhibit of the State Finances, being the Receipts and Expenditures for the fiscal year, commencing on the 1st of December, 1847, and ending November 30th 1848:

Summary Statement of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the fiscal year ending November 30th, 1848.

RECEIPTS.	
Land,	\$21,451 91
Auction Commissions,	22,500 00
Auction Duties,	56,153 50
Tax on Dividends,	118,048 55
Tax on Corporation Stocks,	140,359 89
Tax on Real and Personal Estates,	1,350,129 49
Retaining Licenses,	33,306 61
Tavern Licenses,	131,165 30
Peddlers' Licenses,	2,184 85
Brokers' Licenses,	2,566 00
Theatre, Circus and Menagerie Licenses,	556 65
Pamphlet Laws,	305 54
Militia Fines,	17,161 73
Tax on Writs, Wills, Deeds, &c.,	30,682 95
Tax on certain offices,	19,394 26
Collateral Inheritance Tax,	55,359 01
Canal and Railroad Tolls,	1,550,555 03
Canal Fines, sale of old materials, &c.,	1,121 58
Tax on Enrolment of Laws,	1,965 00
Tax on Loans,	113,431 23
Loans,	140,000 00
Dividends on Turnpike Stock,	1,950 00
Accrued Interest,	2,807 17
Refunded Cash,	14,538 05
Escheats,	905 99
Fees of the Public Officer,	1,644 24
Miscellaneous,	1,526 69
Balance in the Treasury, Dec. 1, 1847,	\$3,831,772 22
1847,	680,890 95
EXPENDITURES.	
Public Improvements,	\$996,592 70
Expenses of Government,	230,550 78
Militia Expenses,	36,724 32
Pensions and Gratuities,	22,705 21
Charitable Institutions,	27,000 00
Common Schools,	176,590 62
Loans,	148,378 15
Interest on Loans,	2,006,740 79
Guaranty of Interest,	32,500 00
Domestic Credits,	13,246 12
Cancelled Relief Notes,	130,090 00
Damages on the Public Works,	26,453 10
Special Commissioners,	303 61
Revenue Commissioners,	2,353 02
State Library,	2,044 15
Public Buildings and Grounds,	3,054 43
Eastern Reservoir of the Penna. Canal,	2,978 91
Outlet Lock at Wells' Falls,	1,600 00
Weight Lock at Beach Haven,	6,958 37
Penitentiaries,	7,847 00
House of Refuge,	4,000 00
Conveying of Fugitives,	768 97
Nicholson Lands,	190 20
Escheats,	771 42
Philadelphia Riots,	39 00
State Magazine,	1,000 00
Abatement of State Tax,	41,522 11
Miscellaneous,	5,168 60
Balance in the Treasury, Nov. 30, 1848,	\$3,935,376 68
Nov. 30, 1848,	577,290 30
4,512,667 07	

The foregoing exhibit is copied from the forthcoming report of Auditor General Purviance; except in two items, it fully bears out his estimate of revenue, made in 1847. The two exceptions are the revenue from the canals and railroads, and the revenue from the tax on writs. In regard to the former, he was mainly guided by the estimates of the Canal Commissioner. The estimate was \$1,700,000. The burning of the Freeport aqueduct made a difference against the estimate of \$90,000 alone, and the decreased exportation of grain and provisions to Europe, has caused the canals to be less used for the transportation of flour, &c., this year, than in the previous one. The tax on writs has fallen off in consequence of the Governor and Presidential elections engrossing the attention of lawyers and suitors, and of Sheriffs and Prothonotaries, anxious for re-election.

[From the Phila. Ledger.]
THINGS IN NEW YORK.
MONDAY, 4 P. M.

The golden calf was never more devoutly worshipped by the Israelites under Moses, than it is now in New York. No pen can describe the excitement that pervades all classes of citizens on the subject of California mines.—The literary men have taken the fever in its most virulent form. No less than three writers for the press have informed me to-day that they will leave for San Francisco within two weeks. Clerks are throwing up their situations, lawyers abandoning the courts, doctors giving up their practice, merchants winding up their affairs, preparatory to leaving for the gold "diggins." Byron, in his "Darkness," says:—

"All earth was but one thought and that was death,
Immediate and ignominious."

On the other hand, all New York is but one thought, and that is wealth, immediate and glorious. Ships are flying out rapidly for the land of promise. Eleven are advertised in this morning's papers, to sail "with dispatch." There will be no lack of provisions in California six months hence. George Law, Esq., the great steamboat proprietor, has issued proposals offering to take out emigrants for \$100 each, under certain conditions.

Mr. Lot M. Irwin, an extensive iron manufacturer of Mercer county, in this State, and brother of Gen. Irwin of Centre county, committed suicide by hanging himself on Wednesday last.

COUNTERFEIT 1's on the Belvidere Bank N. J., are in circulation—vignette Indian and sailor—eagle between them. On right margin female holding a liberty pole, and on left female with wheat in her hand.

CABINET MAKING.—An honest looking mechanic went up to Gen. Taylor yesterday, and abruptly touching his beard, asked: "General, ain't you got nothin' to do for me?" The General blandly told him he did not know, and at the same time enquired what his peculiar business be. "I'm a cabinet-maker," was the reply; "and they tell me you have got a lot o' work of that kind on hand just now." "Yes," replied the General, "but I have not commenced yet; besides I see by the newspapers that I am likely to have more gratuitous help than I need."

BOSTON, Dec. 9, 1848.
The gold fever is all the rage, and our city is flooded with handbills announcing numerous expeditions to the California mines.

THE NASHVILLE UNION advertises its chicken cock for sale—see the advertisement as follows:—

For Sale, and possession given immediately, a beautiful Chicken Cock. He has never had much occasion for crowing, but he will doubtless do that part of a chicken's duty handsomely, if he had the chance. For terms, inquire at this office.

THE PLYMOUTH ROCK gives a report that a vessel is to sail thence with a band of adventurers for California. The editor says he himself will dig gold at from \$16 to \$32 a day.

During the week since the Cholera appeared at Staten Island, there have been thirty-eight cases and fifteen deaths.

THE DOYLESTOWN DEMOCRAT says that the son and servant of Hon. M. Longstreth, of Penn., have been bitten by a mad dog.

HON. SOLOMON BORLAND has been elected by the Legislature of Arkansas, a Senator of the United States for six years, commencing the 4th of March, 1849. He had previously been elected to fill the unexpired term of the Hon. A. H. Sevier.

DIED.